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REMARKS**RECEIVED
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Reconsideration of the present application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

I. Election/Restriction Requirement

Applicant hereby confirms the election of the claims of Group IV, i.e. claims 25-38, for further prosecution in the present application.

II. Objection to the Title

The Examiner objected to the title of the invention as not being descriptive. The title has been amended herein to more accurately describe the invention in view of Applicant's election described above.

III. Status of the Claims

Claims 25-40 are pending, claims 1-24 having been canceled herein in view of Applicant's election. Claims 1 and 27 have been amended herein and new claims 39 and 40 have been added.

Claim 27 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 27 as originally drafted included a typographical error therein, namely claim 27 referred to claim "265" and claim 265 did not exist. Claim 27 has been amended herein to properly refer to claim 26.

Claims 25-32 and 34-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(c) as being anticipated by Weiher et al. (US2005/0035492).

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Claims 25-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Amend et al. (US2003/0183053).

Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Weiher et al. (US2005/0035492).

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 25-32 and 34-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Weiher et al. (US2005/0035492). Claims 25-38 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Amend et al. (US2003/0183053). Claim 33 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over Weiher et al. (US2005/0035492).

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

The claimed invention relates to a method of impressing a material at a plurality of discrete locations in the manufacture of an article including the material. As described in the specification, it has been found in prior art that when knurling processes is used to seal one material to another material layer, for example during the manufacture of a sanitary article, the formed seal is unsatisfactory either because the seal is not strong enough or because the material has been pierced by the projections on the die roll employed in the knurling process. Without being bound by theory, it is believed that the above described problem is caused by the die rolled employed in conventional knurling processes. Such conventional die rolls include a plurality of projections arranged in a pattern, each projection being identical in structure. Although, the force applied by the die roller to the material is constant, the contact area between the die roller and the material is not constant throughout the process. Thus, in a conventional knurling since

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the force applied by the die roller is constant, and the structure of each projection is the same, the pressure applied to the materials will vary according to the contact area between the die roll and the material at any given time. It is believed that this variation in pressure experienced by the material causes the shortcomings in prior art knurling processes.

It has been discovered by that the shortcomings of prior art knurling processes can be overcome by the claimed method of amended claim 25 which recites the invention as follows:

25. (Currently Amended) A method of impressing a material at a plurality of discrete locations in the manufacture of an article including the material, said method comprising:

- providing a die having a plurality of adjacently arranged fields, each of said fields having at least two distinct projections, each field arranged to engage the material substantially simultaneously, each of said projections having a contact area that is spaced from a contact area of an adjacent projection;

- applying in succession each of said plurality of fields of projections to the surface of the material such as to apply a compressive force thereto;

- a summation of the contact areas of said projections in each of said plurality of fields of projections defining a total contact area over which the compressive force is applied in each of said fields;

- the total contact area of the projections in each field being such that the pressure applied by each individual field on said die is not more than double the pressure applied by any other individual field on said die;

- wherein selected ones of said plurality of fields have a plurality of spaced zones, each of said spaced zones having a plurality of projections, and wherein each of said spaced zones are separated from each other by an area without projections.

The claimed invention overcomes the shortcomings of prior art knurling processes by equalizing the pressure experienced by material by maintaining the contact area between the die roll and the material constant throughout the process.

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It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest the invention now recited in claim 25. In particular it is submitted that none of the cited references teach or suggest a method "providing a die having a plurality of adjacently arranged fields, each of said fields having at least two distinct projections, each field arranged to engage the material substantially simultaneously, each of said projections having a contact area that is spaced from a contact area of an adjacent projection" and "wherein selected ones of said plurality of fields have a plurality of spaced zones, each of said spaced zones having a plurality of projections, and wherein each of said spaced zones are separated from each other by an area without projections."

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. A petition for a three-month extension of time extending the time for response from September 2, 2006 until December 2, 2006 is enclosed herewith. December 2, 2006 was a Saturday, therefore it is respectfully that this response is timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any requisite fees to 10-0750/CAN-5004-USNP/PJH.

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According to currently recommended Patent Office policy, the Examiner is authorized to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephonic interview would advance the prosecution of this application.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnest solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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